

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT O 00756 272048 Z

64

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 CG-00 L-03

AID-20 DOTE-00 SCI-06 NSF-04 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /126 W  
----- 067808

R 272016 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5407

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0756

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, TD, VE

SUBJECT: T& T FISHING CONTROVERSY WITH VENEZUELA

SUMMARY. VENEZUELAN DETENTION OF TWO T& T FISHING BOATS HAS  
LED TO PRESSURE ON GOTT TO PROTECT FISHING BOATS AND HELP  
FISHERMEN MARKET THEIR CATCH.

1. ALTHOUGH THE LAST CREW MEMBER WAS RELEASED JUNE 18,  
THE VENEZUELAN COAST GUARD CAPTURE OF TWO T& T FISHING  
BOATS AND CREWS FROM THE CEDROS FISHING COOPERATIVE ON  
JUNE 9 HAS SPARKED DEMONSTRATIONS BY FISHERMEN AND  
PRESSURE ON GOTT TO PROTECT TRINIDADIAN FISHER-  
MEN. IN A LETTER TO THE PM, THE COOP REQUESTED T& T  
COAST GUARD PROTECTION FOR THEIR BOATS AND DEMANDED  
SEIZURE OF A VENEZUELAN FISHING BOAT EVERY TIME ONE  
FROM TRINIDAD IS CAPTURED.

2. SO FAR WILLIAMS HAS REFUSED TO MEET WITH THE FISHERMEN,  
CHARACTERISTICALLY APPOINTING A COMMISSION TO  
INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS HAS ANNOUNCED LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE  
VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR, AND REPORTEDLY DR. CARLOS ATILANO  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT O 00756 272048 Z

VENEZUELAN DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, WILL ARRIVE HERE THIS WEEK. THE FISHERMEN CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR DISPLEASURE BY OPENING A TEMPORARY AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CUT-RATE FISH MARKET OPPOSITE THE PM'S OFFICE AND HAVE CALLED FOR AN AFTERNOON MASS MEETING IN DOWNTOWN PORT OF SPAIN TODAY.

3. THE 1970 DRAFT FISHING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS NEVER BEEN FORMALIZED, AND FISHERMEN FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES OFTEN INTRUDE INTO THE OTHER'S FISHING GROUNDS. HOWEVER, THE FISHING COOPERATIVE WAS ALREADY SEEKING CHANGES IN THE MARKETING SYSTEM, TAXES, AND OTHER BUSINESS INCENTIVES AND IS CAPITALIZING ON CURRENT INCIDENT TO DRAMATIZE THEIR WOES. THE ARCHBISHOP, THE HOUSEWIVES ASSOCIATION (HATT) AND OTHERS HAVE OFFERED VARYING SUPPORT AND WILL PRESUMABLY HELP FORCE THE RELUCTANT GOTT INTO MAKING AT LEAST SOME GESTURE TOWARD ALLEVIATING THE PROBLEMS OF THE FISHERMEN.  
MARSHALL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JUN 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973PORTO00756  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730631/aaaajrof.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980303  
**Subject:** T & T FISHING CONTROVERSY WITH VENEZUELA SUMMARY. VENEZUELAN DETENTION OF TWO T & T FISHING BOATS HAS LED TO PRESSURE ON GOTT TO PROTECT FISHING BOATS AND HELP FISHERMEN MARKET THEIR CATCH.  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TD, VE  
**To:** ARA  
CARACAS  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005